

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-20 (Cancelled)

Claim 21 (New): A breathable pad comprising:

a flexible porous support having at least one surface, and  
at least one layer of gel which is applied directly to at least one surface of said flexible porous support;

wherein said gel comprises:

50 wt% to 77 wt% water,

6.5 wt% to 44 wt% of a dermatologically compatible polymer.

Claim 22 (New): The breathable pad of Claim 21, wherein said flexible porous support has a thickness between 15 and 200 microns, a density from 65 to 145 g/dm<sup>3</sup> and a weight between 15 and 200 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

Claim 23 (New): The breathable pad of Claim 21, wherein said flexible porous support comprises viscose.

Claim 24 (New): The breathable pad of Claim 21, wherein said flexible porous support comprises polyester or polyethylene fibers.

Claim 25 (New): The breathable pad of Claim 21, wherein said flexible porous support comprises mixed polyester/viscose fibers.

Claim 26 (New): The breathable pad of Claim 21, wherein said flexible porous support comprises cotton or linen fibers.

Claim 27 (New): The breathable pad of Claim 21, wherein said flexible porous support is imbibed with at least one substance of plant origin containing essential oils or aromatic extracts.

Claim 28 (New): The breathable pad of Claim 21, wherein said polymer is polyvinyl alcohol.

Claim 29 (New): The breathable pad of Claim 21, wherein said polymer is sodium alginate or calcium alginate, or both.

Claim 30 (New): The breathable pad of Claim 21, wherein said polymer is carboxymethylcellulose.

Claim 31 (New): The breathable pad of Claim 21, wherein said polymer is sodium polyacrylate.

Claim 32 (New): The breathable pad of Claim 21, wherein said polymer is polyvinylpyrrolidone.

Claim 33 (New): The breathable pad of Claim 21, wherein said polymer has been polymerized by gamma rays, beta rays or UV rays.

Claim 34 (New): The breathable pad of Claim 21, wherein said polymer is polyvinyl alcohol which has been polymerized by the addition of an alkaline metal or alkaline earth metal tetraborate.

Claim 35 (New): The breathable pad of Claim 21, wherein said gel further comprises at least one substance of plant origin containing essential oils or aromatic extracts in an amount of >0 to 10% by weight.

Claim 36 (New): The breathable pad of Claim 35, wherein said gel contains 5-10% by weight of at least one substance of plant origin containing essential oils or aromatic extracts.

Claim 37 (New): The breathable pad of Claim 35, wherein said gel contains at least one substance of plant origin is at least one essential oil or extract of a plant selected from the group consisting of silver fir, star anise, bitter orange, sweet orange, benzoin absolute, bergamot, cajeput, Roman chamomile, white camphor, cinnamon leaves, carrot seeds, citron

fruits, cypress, citronella, eucalyptus globulus, extra sweet fennel, cloves, jasmine flowers, bourbon geranium, juniper berries, triple distilled juniper, incense absolute, iris, true lavender, cedarwood, guaiacan wood, rosewood, lemongrass, detergenated lemon, lemon extract, litsea cubeba, marjoram, mandarin, Melissa, triple distilled peppermint, mimosa, myrrh, myrtle, neroli oil, niaouli, palmarosa, patchouli, petit grain, Scots pine, Bulgarian rose, Riviera rose, rosemary, detergenated rosemary, clary sage, Mysore sandalwood, storax absolute, white thyme, vanilla, verbena, vetiver, ylang-ylang, ginger, menthol and tea tree.

Claim 38 (New): The breathable pad of Claim 21, wherein said gel further comprises >0 to 10% by weight of at least one dermatologically compatible component which is a soothing, skin repairing, cicatrising, anti-inflammatory, antiseptic or bactericidal substance.

Claim 39 (New): A breathable pad comprising:

a flexible porous support having at least one surface, which is a non-woven fabric comprising viscose, polyester, polyethylene, mixed polyester/viscose, cotton, or linen fibers, wherein said flexible porous support has a thickness between 15 and 200 microns, a density from 65 to 145 g/dm<sup>3</sup> and a weight between 15 and 200 g/m<sup>2</sup>, and

at least one layer of gel which is applied directly to at least one surface of said flexible porous support;

wherein said gel comprises:

50 wt% to 77 wt% water,

6.5 wt% to 44 wt% of a dermatologically compatible polymer which is polyvinyl alcohol,

0.01 wt% to 5.2 wt.% of an alkaline or alkaline earth metal tetraborate, and

>0 to 10% by weight of at least one dermatologically compatible component which is a drug or antiseptic;

wherein said substrate is impregnated with at least one volatile substance of plant origin containing essential oils or aromatic extracts, or said gel contains >0 wt% to 10 wt% of at least one volatile substance of plant origin containing essential oils or aromatic extracts, or both.

Claim 40 (New): A method for treating skin, for reducing localized swelling, or for providing a decongestant, analgesic or antiedema effect, comprising externally applying the breathable pad of Claim 21 to a subject in need thereof,